HISTORY

OF

Jewels,

And of the Principal Riches of the *EAST* and *WEST*.

Taken from

The Relation of Divers of the Most Famous Travellers of *OUR AGE*.

Attended with

FAIR DISCOVERIES

Conducing to the knowledge of the

UNIVERSE and *TRADE*.

LONDON,

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the *New Exchan*[illegible]

HISTORY

OF

JEWELS,

Jos: Banks

THE PREFACE.

THere is nothing more admirable in this lower World then *Precious Stones*, ſeeing they are the Starres of the Earth, and ſhine in in competition with thoſe of the Firmament, diſpu-

ting with them for ſplendor, beauty, and glory. Nature produceth nothing more rich, and ſufficiently confeſſeth it, in her moſt careful laying them up and hiding them in her private Cabinets and Repoſitories in the inner parts of the Earth, ſo that they are not eaſie to be come by; but their value and price make them worth the ſearching for, even through the bowels

bowels of the World. Amongſt theſe the Diamond very well deſerveth the firſt place, and ſurpaſſeth all in brightneſs and hardneſs, and cannot be wrought upon but by it ſelf; the Blood of a Goat, contrary to the Opinion of the Ancients, having no power at all over it. The *Ruby*, whoſe lively Colour, and whoſe Fire, pierceth the Darkneſs of the Night, comes next

the *Diamond*, and there be divers ſorts of them. The *Emerald* with its lovely green delights our ſight: After theſe come the *Amethyſt*, the *Saphyr*, the *Turcois*, *Sardonix*, *Chryſolite*, *Hyacinth*, *Opale*, and others which deſerve a particular eſteem. The Sea hath likewiſe her riches as well as the Earth, ſhe gives us *Pearl*, *Coral*, *Ambergris*, and *Yellow*, all which ſerve

ſerve for Ornament, and are of conſiderable uſe in Phyſick. The Beaſt alſo do encloſe riches in their bowels, and the *Bezoar* for its great commendation it receiveth, may very well be ranked with *Precious Stones*. *Indico*, *Silks*, *Sal Armoniac*, *Gum Lacca*, *Salpeter*, and other ſuch like things, are not the leaſt Cauſes of Admiration, *Metals*, and chiefly *Gold* and *Silver*,

ver, currant now-adayes in moſt parts of the World, the repoſe and torment of Mortals, their evil and welfare do hold likewiſe a conſiderable place amongſt the Wonders of Nature, and ſhould make us ſo much the more admire our Creator.

We have divers Authors both Ancient and Modern, who have written of the nature of all theſe

theſe things, of their properties and uſe. But I have known none who have taken the care to obſerve exactly either the places whence they draw them, or how they are diſcovered, or their prices, or how they are prepared by any infallible Rule; of *Diamonds*, *Pearls*, and *Rubies*, in proportion to their quality and weight, which I find in my Opinion very

ry

ry worthy the inquiry of the Curious: for if we take delight to observe the situation of the Stars, and seek out the source of a River, I find no less pleasure to discover a Mine, to trace its Veins, and to know precisely those places of the Earth where the *Diamonds* are found, and where they fish for *Pearl*; and this is that which this History doth discover: For in-

deed

deed the *Diamond* is only produced in *Asia*, and that but in a little corner of it; the *Ruby* in a Kingdom on the other side *Ganges*, little frequented by *Europæans*; the *Emerald* in *Peru* a Region of *America*; the *Turcois* in *Persia*; the *Pearl* only in a few Seas of the *East* and *West*; the *Coral* in the *Streights*; *Yellow Amber* upon the Coasts of *Prussia*; the true *Bezoar* only

only in the *Indies*, and so of the rest. In all these Inquiries I have laboured upon very good Observations and the neareſt Relations of the moſt Famous Travellers of our Time; and this Work ought ſo much the rather to be received, by how much it ſeems to be ſeaſonable, and ſhews the ways to thoſe precious Mines of *Aſia*, which hitherto have not been well

well known, and of those fertil Regions into which our most Powerful King hath a desire to establish Commerce, for the benefit and glory of his Subjects.

A

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THE

THE HISTORY OF Jewels.

CHAP. I.

Of DIAMONDS.

AS the Diamond is the moſt rich production of Nature, and moſt prcou s of all Jew-

els, ſo is it likewiſe the moſt Noble of all Commodities. Yet men do not enough admire it, becauſe they know not the difficulties which muſt be incountred with in digging it out of thoſe places where it is formed, and freeing it from the groſs matter that covers it. No man hitherto has exactly diſcourſed of this matter, or ventured to treat of it, but onely upon relations, uncertain and of ſlender credit. But I have drawn this Hiſtory from the moſt curious Obſerva-

tions

tions of the moſt famous Travellers of our Age, whom I have diſcourſed with in divers places, and who have particularly buſied themſelves in the reſearch of the Mines that afford the Diamonds and other Stones of colour; in which to ſpeak true, they have omitted nothing, but have added remarks worthy to be tranſmitted to Poſterity.

1. Let me therefore tell you, That none has been yet able in all the World to diſcover more

than five places, from whence the Diamond is brought, *viz.* two Rivers and three Mines.

The First of the two Rivers is in the Isle *Borneo*, under the Æquator, on the East of the *Chersonesus* of Gold, and is call'd *Succadan*. The Stones fetched from thence are usually clear and of a good Water, and almost all bright and brisk, whereof no other reason can be given, but that they are found at the bottom of a River amongst Sand which

is pure, and hath no mixture or tincture of other Earth, as in other places.

These Stones are not discovered till after the Waters which fall like huge Torrents from the Mountains, are all passed, and men have much to do to attain them, since few persons go to trafick in this Isle; and forasmuch as the Inhabitants do fall upon Strangers who come ashore, unless it be by a particular favour. Besides that, the Queen does rarely permit any to transport them; and so soon as

ever any one hath found one of them they are obliged to bring it to her. Yet for all that they paſs up and down, and now and then the Hollanders buy them in *Batavia*. Some few are found there, but the largeſt do not exceed five Carats, although in the year 1648, there was one to be ſold in *Batavia* of 22 Carats.

I have made mention of the Queen of *Borneo*, and not of the King, becauſe that the Iſle is alwayes commanded by a Woman, for that People, who will have

have no Prince but what is legitimate, would not be otherwise assured of the birth of Males, but can not doubt of those of the Females, who are necessarily of the Blood Royal on their Mothers side, she never marrying, yet having alwayes the Command.

The second River is in the Kingdom of *Bengala*, and is called *Nage*, by the Name of a great Town, the Seat of a Prince, equally distant from *Ougoulin*, *Pepeli*, and *Balacor*, fifteen dayes journey from all three. This

Province hath a *Raja*, or a Duke in our Language, who is an Idolater, as are all his Subjects. This *Raja*, as also the Kings of *Visapour* and *Golconda*, are Tributaries to the *Great Mogol*, and have been his Subjects, but took occasion to revolt from him, whil'st they saw him busied against the Tartars. 'Tis from hence that the three Mines of Diamonds whereof I shall speak being found in the Countries of these Princes, are ordinarily said to be found in the Territories of the *Great Mogol*.

These

These Diamonds then are discovered in the Sand of a River, at the bottom and upon the Banks, after that the great Floods are passed, just as in the River of *Borneo*. They are fair, for the most part pointed, brisk, high, bright and large, and what we call now-a-days of the Old Rock. But they are hard to come by, because the River affords but very few, and the Inhabitants hold them at an high rate; and that which renders them still more rare, is the perfidiousness of those who

who ſell them, who lay wait in the Woods for the Merchants who buy them and fall upon them. Beſides that, the Prince doth cruelly tyrannize over the poor people who come to ſearch for them. In the year 1657 *L'Eſcot* of *Orleans* ventured to go thither, by reaſon that he had learned that the *Raja* had a Diamond of 42 Carats, he was courteouſly received by the Prince, who ſhewed it to him and had a mind to ſell it him, upon condition that *L'Eſcot* would pay for it in ready money: but the

other

her having bargained be-
re-hand and desiring they
ould deliver him the
one, and receive the mo-
ey for it in any City of the
ealm of *Bengala*, which
e Prince should like best,
here the Hollanders had
Bank, the *Raja* would
ot consent thereto, and
e other went his way with-
ut buying of it. An Hol-
nder hath since got it from
n unknown hand.

The first of the three
Mines from whence they
etch the Diamond, is in the
and of the King of *Visa-*

pour

pour in the Province of *Ca*
natica, eight dayes journe
from *Viſapour* and five fro
Golconda. 'Tis but 20
years ſince it was diſcove
ed, and the City roun
about which it lieth
is called *Raolconda*. Th
Stones are found in t
ground and on the Roc
Thoſe which are taken fro
the Rock or the plac
thereabouts, are commo
ly of a good water. B
for thoſe which are take
from the Earth, their wat
is ſomewhat of the Colou
of that Earth where they a
foun

ound, ſo that if the Earth
e clear and a little gravel-
, the Diamonds will be of
good water; and if it be
t and black, or of an o-
her Colour, they will like-
viſe have ſome of the tin-
ture of the ſame.

But if there be any Black
r Red Sand amongſt the
Earth, the Diamond alſo
will have ſome of it. The
Stones which are got from
hence are for the moſt part
Laſques, it is not becauſe
they are taken out ſo from
the Earth, but it is becauſe
being ſtounded by the blow

of

of the Lever that hits again
the Rock, to dig out th
Gravel that is in the Vei
where the Stone is found
they assume an Ice just as
Glass that is crackt; now t
remove it and make it clea
they cleave it, and the
are the Stones they ca
Lasque Stones, or *Fl*
Stones; the which the In
dians know better how t
perform than we, especia
ly as to the business of cu
ting or cleaving, and findin
the thread of the Stone
Now if there remain an
small point, they get it mad
with

with little fossets, to the end that the standing out of the fossets may cover the bruise or flaw; the truth is, if the Stone be clear, they do no more but polish it above and below, and shape it not, for fear of diminishing any thing from its weight. There are alwayes more than an hundred and fifty Mills that work, and they put not above one Stone upon each wheel, till such time they have found the way of the Stone, they water it incessantly, and when it begins to run, they take

take oil; their Wheels are of the bigneſs of our ordinary Plates, and each Wheel hath its Woman to turn it. The Trafick for Stones is free in paying two *per Cent.* to the King of whatſoever is ſold; and no body dares do the leaſt wrong to Strangers. You may there ſee Children of ten or twelve years old in the Streets with their Weights at their Girdle, expecting the Miners, in hope to buy of them what Stone they have by ſtealth conveyed away. In the Evening these Children meet to

ther; and ſetting the currant price upon each Stone they have bought, do divide the profit of it amongſt them, and ſell it all again to the great Merchants, who by little and little make large Collections. They match the Waters, and mix therewith alwayes ſome Stone that has a point or flaw, which they cannot remove. They put their whole confidence in Strangers, eſpecially the *Francks*, whereof very few come thither, and place ſuch confidence in their faith, that they leave them ſometimes great quantities of Dia-

monds of great value fifteen dayes together, without comeing to see them, and by that means affording them all the leasure they can wish to consider well their marchandise, so that it is their own fault if they be cheated in it.

The second Mine is called *Coullour* in the Persian Language, and the Idolaters of the Countrey call it *Gany*. This is a large Town, near a great River, and they dig from the River to a Mountain about two Leagues from thence, and in the Mountain it self. This Mine hath been

been discovered but within 50 or 60 years; and is the place where they find the most part of the great Stones, whereas before that time they rarely met with any above twelve Carrats; but that at this day some are to be seen of threescore, an hundred, and of two hundred Carrats, *Mirgimola* Chief Minister of State, and General of the Armies of the King of *Golconda*, a man of great parts, much believed of his Master, who gave him the Title of Prince of Princes, though at length he proved a Traitor, presented the *Great*

Mogol, to whose side he turned, with a vast Stone of Nine hundred Carrats in weight: yet being full of flaws, it was reduc'd to 300 by *Hortensius* a Venetian Lapidary, who cut it, but could not do it so well, but there remained a flaw in it, which makes it something unhandsom. 'Tis also to be observed, that just as at the Mine of *Visapour*, the Stones in this also do partake of the quality of the Earth from whence they are brought; so that if the Earth be marshy and moist, the Stone inclines to black; if it be reddish, the

Stone inclines to be red; for from the Town to the Mountain there is great difference of Mould: and upon the greatest part of these Stones, after they are cut, there appears alwayes as it were a piece of grease, which makes you ever and anon put your hand to your Handkerchief to wipe it off. We will observe by the way that whereas we make use of the day to examine rough Stones, and to judge well of their water, and of the points that may be found therein, the Inhabitants of the Countrey make use of the night,

night, and in an hole which they make in the Wall a foot ſquare, where they put a Lamp with a great Match, holding the Stone in their Fingers between their Eyes and the Lamp, they make an eſtimate of the water and clearneſs of the Diamond. We muſt not forget that the Celeſtial water (as they call it) is of all waters for a Diamond moſt unpleaſing, and that it is impoſſible to know it ſo long as the Stone is rough; but after that it is a little diſcovered upon the Wheel, the infallible ſecret to judge well of its water, is to carry

carry it under a Shady Tree, for under its green ſhade you may eaſily diſcover if it be blew. Formerly there have been reckoned at this Mine Sixty thouſand Miners and upwards, but in the year 1660 there was not a Stone ſcarce worth looking upon, and not above Three thouſand Laborers in the Mines, all the reſt being dead with hunger and miſery; for each Miner has but Five Crowns a year, and they are certainly the moſt miſerable people upon Earth. The Land is alſo very barren, and if it could but produce Pulſe, the

people would not trouble themſelves to gather Diamonds. Thoſe who pay the Miners, make them work as much as they pleaſe, and take as much as they pleaſe of the Earth without ſearching it; but after they have begun to ſearch into it, they owe to the King a Pagode, which is worth two Crowns of our Money, for the whole time till they ceaſe to work.

The Third and laſt Mine was diſcovered in the year 1448, two days journey from *Rabkonda*, and the place is called *Gazerpoli*; the Stones there

there are very clear and of a good water, but cannot be ground but with the Stones of the ſame Mine: Otherwiſe, if they ſhould make uſe of Stones of another Mine, theſe laſt would be bruiſed. They are likewiſe apt to break upon the Wheel, and they who are not vers'd in the knowledge of Stones, may eaſily be deceived in them. A *Portugueſe* retiring to *Venice*, was deſired, paſſing by *Legorn*, to ſell one of thoſe Stones which he had, for which they offered him Twelve thouſand Crowns; he would not part with it at

that

that rate, and bringing it to *Venice* to get it cut, it broke upon the Wheel into fifteen or twenty pieces.

Beſides theſe two Rivers and three Mines, there be alſo ſome other Mines towards the Cape of *Comorin*, of which I will make mention in a few words. In the year 1652 the *Nababe*, who is as the Grand Viſier in *Turkey*, the *Etmaldoulet* in *Perſia*, and Conſtable in *France*, and the ſame *Mirgimola* of whom I ſpoke even now, was at the Siege of *Indecote*, a very ſtrong place in the Province of *Carnatica*, by

rea-

reason of its situation; which he took notwithstanding in two Moneths time. There were some French in his service, yet more English and Hollanders, who had deserted their Colours and come over to him, all able Gunners; the poor wretches of the Countrey having never heard the noise of these Engins, were quite surpris'd at it, and rendered themselves forthwith to their discretion. *Indecore* is 35 days journey from *Massulipatan*, inclining towards the Cape of *Comorine*, and 16 from *Golconda*. This is one of

of the fairest and best Countreys of all the *Indies*, and every where all the Countrey is green, full of Rivers and Lakes, to water the Land where need requires. It was during this Siege that they brought to *Nababe* a great number of Diamonds of the six Mines he had caused to be digged towards the Cape of *Comorin*: yet there was ne're a Stone of a good water, they were either yellow or black: and after that *Nababe* had viewed them, he forbad them to dig any more, and gave order that these people

should

should return to their labour, by which they brought more profit to the King then by working in the Mines; being they found not one good Stone there.

2. I come now to the manner of finding the Diamond, and especially how it is performed in the Mine of *Coulour*. The Miners sink a Pit of about fifteen or twenty foot square, and throw the Earth about it upon a clean place, almost of the same largeness, raising a little wall of a foot and half, to keep

up

up the earth and water which they caſt in there; after this they waſh and ſtamp and tread the earth with their feet in two or three waters; to the end that all the fat and muddy earth may run through the holes made in the wall, and that there remain nothing but ſand. The ſand being dry, they beat it with Peſtles of Wood, that they may better perceive and diſcover the Diamonds; heretofore they made uſe of Inſtruments of Stone, but they left them ſo ſoon as ever they were perceived to cauſe flaws in the Diamonds.

At

At length they ſit them down all on a-row upon the earth in the poſture of Taylors, and ſeek out with all acurateneſs the Stones amongſt the ſand. Whil'ſt they be at this exerciſe, ſeveral Commiſſioners ſtand up with their eyes fixed upon the Workmen, for fear leaſt when they find a Stone, they ſhould ſwallow it cunningly down. When a Miner has found a big one, he runneth to the Maſter, who ſet him on work, to receive his reward for it, which is ordinarily a piece of Linnen of a Crown value.

3. We are now to touch upon the price of Diamonds in proportion to their weight, which is not the leaſt conſiderable article of this Chapter; and although ſome have writ copiouſly of this Subject, and ſet down what Rules ought to be obſerved, yet here I alſo preſent a very eaſie and moſt certain one in favour of the curious.

Some imagine that the Indians and Merchants who employ Workmen in the Diamond Mines, are ignorant of theſe Rules, as alſo of all Arithmetick, but without rea-

ſon

ſon; for on the contrary they are ſo experienced therein, that having the Rules alwayes in their head, there is not the leaſt young boy of fifteen years of age who is not able to give an account on the ſudden, without Pen or Paper, of the moſt difficult queſtion that can be put to him.

Beſides, as it is more difficult to judge of the water of a Stone, and of the points and flaws that may be found therein, when it is rough than when it is wrought; theſe Indians ſhew themſelves much more knowing than we, to know

the price of any Stone whatsoever, which they are able to tell presently, by calculating with themselves without Pen or Chalk, which is enough to make their sagacity to be admired; this is then the Rule they make use of as well as we, They take a Stone of 10 Carats, which they multiply by the number of 10, the Product whereof is 100. Afterwards they consider the Stone, whether it be clean and perfect, or if there be any defect in it; if it be perfect, say they, if we had one Stone perfect of one Carat

onely

onely in weight, it would be worth for example according to its perfection, from 40 to 60 Crowns; If the water of it be not good, or if there be any flaw or ice, in a Stone of one Carat of the same nature, it would not be worth for example above from 10 to 20 Crowns; then they multiply again the aforesaid product of 100, by so much as they judge the Carat worth, and that which is the product of this, is the price of the Stone proposed. Let this then be the example of a perfect Stone of 10 Carats, at the rate of 60 Crowns the Carat. This

10
10
100
60
6000

This an example of a Stone of 15. which may have some imperfection, at 20 Crowns the Carat.

15
15
75
15
225
20
4500

The

The Indians have the same Rule, onely they transpose the multiplication; for they multiply first of all the price of a Carat of the Stone propounded by the number of Carats it weighs, and the product again by the number of the aforesaid Carats. Let this be the Example following.

10
60
600
10
6000

Another Example.

15
20

300
15

1500
300

4500

4. For the satisfaction of such as would go to the Mines, we must speak also something of the ways that lead to them; which modern relations, somewhat fabulous, make so dangerous

gerous and difficult, and re-
present them to us pestered
with Tygers, Lyons, and Cru-
el Men, but Travellers have
found the contrary, except-
ing onely some Wild Beasts,
the Inhabitants being courte-
ous to Strangers. As for *Gol-
conda*, he must be very little
acquainted with the Map, who
knows not the situation of it;
but from *Golconda* to the
Mines, the way is less known,
they measure the ways there
by the *Gos*, one *Gos* making
four French Leagues.
They reckon from *Golconda* to
Canapour, *Gos* 1.

 From

From *Canapour* to *Parquel*, *Gos* 2 ½.

From *Parquel* to *Caquenol*, *Gos* 1.

From *Caquenol* to *Canol-Condonor*, *Gos* 3.

From *Canol-Condonor* to *Jettapour*, *Gos* 1

From *Jettapour* to the River, *Gos* 2.

This River is upon the Frontiers of the Kingdoms of *Golconda* and *Visapour*.

From the River to *Alpour*, *Gos* 2 ¾.

From *Alpour* to *Canol*, *Gos* ¾.

From *Canol* to *Raolconda*, where the Mine is, *Gos* 2 ½.

So

So that in all from *Golconda* to the Mine, it is about 15 *Gos*, which comes to 60 French Leagues.

From *Golconda* to the Mine of *Coullour* or *Gani*, by the same *Gos*, they count *Gos* 13 $\frac{3}{4}$, which is 55 French Leagues; this is the way,

From *Golconda* to *Almaſpinde*, *Gos* 3.

From *Almaſpinde* to *Kaper*, *Gos* 2.

From *Kaper* to *Montecour*, *Gos* 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

From *Montecour* to *Naglepar*, *Gos* 2.

From

From *Neglepar* to *Eligada*, *Gos* 1 ¼.

From *Eligada* to *Sarvaron*, *Gos* 1.

From *Sarvaron* to *Mellazeron*, *Gos* 1.

From *Mellazeron* to *Ponocour*, *Gos* 1 ¼.

From *Ponocour* to *Coullour* or *Gany*, there is only the River to pass.

5. It remains to speak of the Pieces which are currant in *India*, with which the Diamonds are bought, *viz.* *Roupies* and *Pagodes*; a *Roupie* is worth twenty eight pence of our

out Money; as for the *Pagodes* there be two sorts of them, the new and the old; the new are worth three *Roupies* and an half, and the old a *Roupie* more. In the Realm of *Bengala*, in the Countrey of the *Raja*, being they are Tributaries to the *Grand Mogol*, Payments are made in *Roupies*. At the two Mines that are upon the Lands of the King of *Visapour*, about *Ralconda*, payment is made in new *Pagodes*, which the King gets stamped, because although he be tributary to the *Great Mogol*, he causeth his own mo-

ney

ney to be coyned, a Priviledge which he hath above the King of *Golconda*, of which I ſhall ſpeak hereafter. Theſe *Pagodes* riſe and fall according to the courſe of Trade, and according as the Merchants do bargain with the Princes and Governors. At the Mine of *Coullour* or *Gani*, which belongs to the King of *Golconda*, payment is made after the ſame manner in new *Pagodes*, which are valued as thoſe of the King of *Viſapour*; but they muſt ſometimes be bought from 1 to 4 *per Cent.* more, the reaſon is becauſe they are of

the

the best Gold, and they will have none but such. These *Pagodes* are coyn'd by the English and Hollanders, who have had the Priviledge from the King by grant or by force, I know not; now those of the Hollanders being fairer than those of the English, the Miners love them better than the others; which is the reason why they are bought for more by 1 or 2 *per Cent*, yet being the Merchants are aware of this false opinion they are imposed upon by, and because these people at the Mines are rude and savage, and that at the

the beſt the ways are ſome-
what dangerous from *Golconda*
to the Mine, they ſtay com-
monly at *Golconda*, where the
Merchants who cauſe them to
dig, have their Correſpon-
dence, and whither they uſu-
ally ſend the Diamonds
which are to be paid for at
ſuch time in old *Pagodes*
ſtampt long ſince with the
Coyn of divers Princes who
reigned in the *Indies* before the
Mahumetans took footing
there. Now theſe old *Pa-*
godes are worth as (I ſaid) four
Roupies and an half, a *Roupie*
more than the new; which

comes

comes to six pence of our money more than a Ducat, though there be no more Gold in them than in the new ones, and weigh no more: the which might administer cause of wonder, if we did not know the reason, which is this, that the *Cheraffs* or *Money-Changers*, to oblige the King not to get them coyned over again, give him a great sum yearly, because they draw from thence a considerable benefit; for the Merchants do not receive any of these *Pagodes*, without having one of these *Money-Changers* to examine them,

some

ſome of them being defaced, others of low rate, others which are not weight; and there ought to be allowed a quarter *per cent.* for what they want. When you pay the Miners, they receive not your *Pagodes*, but in preſence alſo of the *Changer*, who certifies them of what is good or bad, and he again allows his quarter *per cent.* But to diſpatch the ſooner, when they would make any payment that is conſiderable, as a thouſand or two thouſand *Pagodes*, the *Changer* in allowing him his right, puts them up in a little

Bag

Bag, with a Bill of its mark, and when you would pay the Miner, you carry them to the *Cheraf*, together with the Bag, and finding its mark entire, he assures the Miner that he hath examined the whole, and that he will be responsible for what is not good. Now as for *Roupies*, they take indifferently those of the *Great Mogol*, and those of the King of *Golconda*, because those which the King causes to be stamped, are to be according to the *Great Mogol*'s Coyn, as is agreed upon between them. And to shew you that these

Indians have more wit and more subtilty than any one would think, the *Pagodes* being little pieces of thick Gold, of the bigness onely of the nail of the little finger, and it being upon that account impossible to clip them, they have the art to make little holes in them round about, from whence they may get two or three pence of the powder of Gold, after which they beat them down again handsomely, that it may not appear that any one has touched them. Moreover, when you buy any thing in a Village,

when you pass a River, if you give them a *Rompy*, they presently kindle a fire, and having cast it into it, if it cometh out white, they take it; if it cometh out black, they restore it to you again; for all the Coyn in the *Indies* is without Allay, and if any of it be brought thither out of *Europe*, it must be carried to the Mint to be new coyned. We must adde, that those people are deceived, who do imagine that it sufficeth to carry Looking-Glasses to the Mines, or Tobacco and such like Toyes, to truck them

for Diamonds; our Travellers find the quite contrary, and they desire there the best and faireſt Gold.

Besides, it is a thing undeniable, that as Gold is the most heavy and richeſt of all Metals, so is the Diamond the most hard and most precious of all Stones; and it is a *Vulgar Error* of Ancient Authors, to believe that the Diamond may be softened by the Blood of a Bull; which is contrary to the experience of Lapidaries.

To conclude, and to forget nothing in this Chapter, 'tis

'tis to be obſerved, That the Diamond in the Miners Language is called *Iri*, and in Turkiſh, Perſian, and Arabian, 'tis called *Almas*, but in all the Languages of *Europe* there is no other Name beſides *Diamond*. I come to Coloured Stones, and particularly to the *Ruby* and the *Emerauld*, which hold amongſt Jewels a very conſiderable place.

CHAP. II.

Of Coloured Stones.

THere are discovered but two places in the *Indies* from whence they bring Coloured Stones, *viz.* in the Realm of *Pegu* and in the Island of *Ceylan*. The first is from a Mountain about 12 dayes journey from *Ava*, inclining to the N. East, which they call *Capelan*, and it is the Mine from whence they bring the greatest quantities of *Rubies* and *Espinelles*, otherwise

wise *Mother of Rubies*, *Yellow Topazes*, *Blew* and *White Saphires*, and other Stones of different Colours, amongst which they find also some of divers Colours, yet very tender, which they call *Bacan* in that Countrey Language, *Siren* is the City where the King of *Pegu* hath his Residence, and *Ava* is the Port to his Countrey; from *Ava* to *Siren* they go up the River in great Flat-bottomed Boats, in which Voyage they spend at least thirty dayes. They cannot go thither by Land, because of the thick Woods full of

Lions, Tygers, and Elephants, and in a word it is one of the pooreſt Countreys in the World. Nothing comes thence but *Rubies*, and not in ſo great quantities as is believed, ſeeing that every year there comes not out to the value of an hundred thouſand Crowns, and amongſt them you'll very rarely find a Stone of four or five Carrats that is fair, conſidering the Prohibition againſt exporting any parcels which the King hath not ſeen, who keepeth the good ones, if he findeth any; ſo that there is a conſiderable profit in bring-

ing

ing one of them out of *Europe* into *Asia*: from whence we may judge whither the relation of *Vincent le Blanc* be true, wherein he boasts to have seen some as he entered into the Countrey of the bigness of Eggs.

2. The price of *Rubies*, which cometh next the Diamond in dignity, goes thus:

They weigh them by the *Rati*, and one *Rati* maketh ¾ of our Carrat.

A *Ruby* at the Mine of the weight of one *Rati*, hath been bought for old *Pagodes* 20.

Of

Of 2 *Rati*	*Pagod*	100.
Of 3 *Rati*	*Pagod*	250.
Of 4 *Rati*	*Pagod*	500.
Of 5 *Rati*	*Pagod*	900.
Of 6 *Rati*	*Pagod*	1500.
Of 7 *Rati*	*Pagod*	2300.
Of 12 *Rati*	*Pagod*	12000.

The second place of the *Indies* from whence they bring Stones of Colour, is in a great River of the Isle *Ceylon*; they are found in the sand at low water, three or four moneths after the rains have past, and the poor people are employed in seeking for them. The Stones which they ordinarily find

find there are clear, more lively than those of *Pegu*, and of a very high colour, especially the *Topaz*. As for Granats and Chrystal they find a great quantity of them. At such time as Don *Philippo Masserini* was Governour of those places which the King of *Portugal* had in the Ile of *Ceylon*, the Chief of which was *Columbo*, he who since was Vice-Roy of *Goa*, he caused all the Moveables of a Chamber to be made of Chrystal, *viz.* Bed, Chairs, Tables, Cabinet, *&c.*

'Tis true that in *Europe* there are also two other places

from

from which they bring Stones of Colour, that is to say, from *Bohemia* and *Hungaria*; from this they bring *Opales*, and in the other there be *Rubies*, which they take out of the middle of certain Flints after they be broken; these Flints are like to the Stones of Fire-locks inclininig towards red, some as big as the fist, some less; but many of them may be broken before you find one *Rubie*. When the Son of the Emperour *Ferdinand* 2. was crowned King of *Bohemia*, General *Walleſtein* preſented the Governour of

Raab

Raab at *Prague* with a great Basket full of these Flints, to the number of above two hundred: This Lord caused some of these to be broken, but not finding more than one small *Ruby* of the weight of half a Carrat, he made them leave the others unbroken.

The curious Reader will not find it tedious, to know further from whence they fetch the *Lapis* and *Granate*, I cannot tell the reason why they have given the Name of *Syrien* to this, seeing it was never found in *Syria*, but far from thence

thence thirty days journey from *Lahor* to the North East, in the Countrey of a *Raja*, who depends neither of the *Great Mogol* nor of the *Tartar*, in a Mountain, the Southern part whereof produceth Gold; that which respects the North, produces the *Granat*, and the East part affordeth the *Lapis Lazuli*, for the *Turkoise* every one knoweth that it is found in *Persia* in the Province of *Chamaquay*, the chief place whereof is *Maschec*, to the North of *Hispaham*, towards *Candahar*. There are there two Mines, one they call the

the *Old Rock*, the other the *New*; thoſe of the *New* are but of a bad blew, inclining to white, and little eſteemed, and it is free for any man to take as many of them as he pleaſeth. But the King of *Perſia* ſome years ſince forbad the digging in the *Old* for any beſides himſelf, becauſe having no Goldſmiths but ſuch who work in thread, and are wholly ignorant how to enamel upon Gold, as people who know neither the deſign nor manner of it, they make uſe for the garniſhing of their Swords and Ponyards and

other

other Works of theſe Turkoiſes, inſtead of enamel, and cauſe them to be cut and ſet in the Bearit of Kings, according to the Flowers and other Figures that do beſt pleaſe him. This ſheweth well enough and is elaborate, but without any curious Deſign.

'Tis an ancient error of many to believe that the *Emerauld* is found in the Eaſt, and becauſe before the diſcovery of the *Weſt Indies* none could gueſs otherwiſe of it, ſtill to this day the greateſt part of Jewellers and Goldſmiths, ſo ſoon as ever they ſpy an *Emerauld*

rald of an high colour inclining to black, are wont to ſay it is an *Oriental Emerald*; wherein they are altogether miſtaken, ſince that the *Eaſt* never produced any ſuch. I grant that before the diſcovery of *America*, the *Emeralds* were brought from the *Eaſt*; but they came from the ſource of the *Weſt-Indies*, from the Realm of *Peru*. For theſe people before we knew them, did traffick in all the *Moluccy Iſlands*, whither they brought Gold and Silver, yet more Silver than Gold, being that there is more profit in the

one than in the other, by reason of the Gold Mines that are found in the Eastern Parts. Still to this day the same Trade continues, and those of *Peru* pass yearly to the *Philippine Isles* with two or three Vessels, whither they bring nothing but Gold and a small quantity of *Emeralds*; and as for the *Emeralds*, within this few years they have left carrying any thither, but send them all into *Europe*. In the year 1660. they afforded them in the *East* for more than twenty *per Cent.* cheaper than they were valued at in *France*.

These

These *Americans* being come ashore in the *Philippines*, those of *Bengala*, *Arabians*, *Pegu*, *Goa*, and other places, bring thither all sorts of Linnen and a number of Cut Stones, as Diamonds and Rubies, together with divers Works of Gold, Stuffs of Silk and Persian Tapestry.

But 'tis to be observed, that they can sell nothing directly to those of *Peru*, but to such who reside in *Manilla* they can, and these again retail them to the *Americans*; nay if any one obtain permission to return from *Goa* to *Spain*, by

the way of the South Sea, he will be forc'd to put out his money to interest at fourscore or an hundred *per Cent.* to the *Philippines*, without being able to buy any thing, and to do with it after the same manner from the *Philippines* to *New Spain*. Now this was the way of trafficking for *Emeralds* before the *West Indies* were found out, they came into *Europe* onely by this way and vast compass. Whatsoever was not good remained in that Country, and what was fair passed into *Asia*.

The Holy Scripture makes mention of the *Emerald*, as of a precious Jewel, and placeth it amongst the rich Stones that the High-Priest wore in his Ephod, and those which adorned the Walls of the *New Hierusalem*. Heretofore the *Emerald* has been had in great esteem, and came after the *Pearl*: Now-a-dayes none makes so much account of it, in regard of the great quantities are brought every year from the *Indies*. The truth is men so much account of rare things, that they quite undervalue such as they perceive

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common; and I will relate to you a Story upon this account.

At the beginning of the discovery of the *Indies*, a Spaniard was in *Italy*, and demanding of a Lapidary the price of an *Emerald*, which he shewed him, he considering it very well, and finding it a goodly one, told him it was worth a hundred Ducats: Whereupon the Spaniard being very glad, carried him to his Lodgings, and shewed him a Cabinet full of them. The Italian, who saw so great a number of those *Emeralds*, told him that

as

as for thoſe they were well worth Crowns apiece. Thus it fares with all things which the abundance makes cheap, and whereto rarity adds a price. *Pliny* amongſt divers excellencies of the *Emerald*, ſays, that there is nothing more delightful nor recreative to the ſight; and reporteth that *Lælia* a Roman Dame had Head-Cloaths and a Gown embroidered with *Pearls* and *Emeralds*, in which ſhe laid out to the value of Four hundred thouſand Ducats. But ſhe might have had as many now-a-dayes for leſs than half the Money. Many

are found in several places of *America*, and the Kings of *Mexico*, who esteemed them very much, were usually wont to pierce their Nostrils, and there to hang an excellent *Emerald*; they put them also upon the Faces of their Idols. The places where they have found them, and where still to this day they find the great abundance, is the New Kingdom of *Granada* and *Peru*, near to *Manta* and *Portviel*, there is towards that place a Territory called, *The Land of Emeralds*, by reason of the great number known to be found

found there; but hitherto this Region has not been fully conquered.

The *Emerald* is bred in Quarries, just as the *Chrystal*, and runs along, as it were making a Vein, and grows finer and finer, or thicker and thicker, by degrees.

We see some half white and half green, some all white, some quite green and most perfect; some we may see of the bigness of a Nut and bigger, yet none come near the bigness and figure of the Plate or Jewel which is at *Genoua*, unless we believe *Theophrastus*, who

who allows four Ells in length and three in breadth to the *Emerald*, which the King of *Babylon* presented to the King of *Ægypt*: And who doth further report that there was in the Temple of *Jupiter* an *Anguglia* Needle or Pyramid, made of four Stones of *Emerald*, forty Cubits long, and in some places four Cubits broad; and that at his time there was at *Tyre* in the Temple of *Hercules* a great Pillar of *Emerald*, perhaps it was nothing else but a Green Stone that was a Bastard *Emerald*, to which they gave this Name falsly:

fally: As some say that certain Pillars of the Cathedral Church of *Cordova* are of *Emerald* Stones, and were put there since the time it served instead of a Mosk to the Kings of the Moors, who reigned in those places. In the Fleet which came from the the *Indies* in the year 1587, there were two great Chests of *Emeralds*, from whence we may judge of the great quantity which is found in *America*. In a word, as there is nothing but the rarity that gives value to things, so the price of the *Emerald* would be much enhanced,

hanced, if it were as rare as the Diamond.

CHAP. III.

Of PEARLS.

THe *Pearl* hath been at all times ſo much eſteemed, that the Goſpel does not diſdain by this to repreſent to us the Excellency of the Kingdome of Heaven, and it belonged formerly onely to Royal Perſons to wear them; without diſpute 'tis one of the richeſt pro-

productions of Nature, and if we believe the Naturalists, *Pearl* is ingendred of the dew of heaven in those parts of the Earth where it is most pure and serene: And the Cockle opening at the first Rayes of the Sun to receive those precious drops, plungeth into the Sea with its booty, and conceives in its Shell the *Pearl* which resembles the heavens, and imitateth its clearness; this admirable *Pearl*, which men seek with so much industry: so that heaven does visibly contribute to its generation, and impresses the

the most Celestial Vertues and Qualities which Physick was ever able to boast of, and whereof she makes use for a Sovereign Remedy: yet for all that all the World does not agree as to this with the Ancient Naturalists, and the sequel of this Discourse will make appear that they are deceived in some things.

But before we speak of the manner how they fish for *Pearl* and of their different Qualities, we must make report of the divers places of the World where they are found.

First

First of all then they have discovered four Fishing Places for Pearl in the East, the most considerable is performed in the Isle of *Babren* in the Persian Golph; the which appertains to the Sophy of *Persia*, who receives thence a great revenue. While the Portugals were Masters of *Ormus* and *Muscat*, every Vessel which went to fish was obliged to take a Passport from them at a dear rate; and they maintained alwayes five or six small Galleys in the Gulph, to sink those Barks which took no Passports; but at present they have

have no farther power upon those Coasts, and each Fisher payeth to the King of *Persia* not above one third of what they gave to the Portugals.

The second Fishing is over against *Bahren* upon the Coast of *Arabia Fœlix*, near to the City of *Catif*, which belongeth to an Arabian Prince who commandeth that Province. The most part of the *Pearls* which are fished in these two places, are carried into *India*, because that the Indians are not so hard, but give a better price for them than we; they are therefore carri

carried thither; the unequal, as well as the round, the yellow as well as the white; every one according to its rate: some of them also are sold at *Balsora*, and those which are transported into *Persia* and *Moscovy*, are sold at *Bandar-congue* two dayes journey from *Ormus*. They fish twice in a year in the Moneths of *March* and *April*, and in the Moneths of *August* and *September*; the depth where they fish is from four to twelve fathoms, and the deeper the Oister is found, the *Pearls* are the whiter, because the water is not so hot

there, the Sun not being able to penetrate so deep.

3 The third fishing is by the Isle of *Ceylon*, at a place which is called *Manar*; the *Pearls* which are found there, are of a good water but small, and the greatest do not surpass two Carrats, and it is seldom that they are found of that weight, but in recompence of this there is great quantity of Seed Pearl fit to powder.

4 The fourth and last Fishing in the *East* is at *Japan*; the *Pearls* there are of a water white enough and heavy, but unequal: those of *Japan* sell them

them all to the *Holland* Company, for they make no account, as I shall let you know in order, of any Jewel.

In the *West* are discovered five *Pearl* Fishings, the first is in the Island *Margarita* two and twenty leagues from the firm land; this Isle is thirty five leagues about and hath a good Haven towards the North; at the East point it is all encompassed with rocks: it is fruitful enough, but there is want of water: and the inhabitants go up into the Countrey to furnish themselves with it, yet there are great store of Cattel,

and it beareth Maize and other things neceſſary for thoſe who live there.

The ſecond Fiſhing was diſcovered in the year 1496, by the Iſle of *Cubagua*, a league from the former, in the *Gulph* of *Mexico*; it is in ten degrees and an half of Northern Latitude, an hundred and threeſcore Leagues from *St. Domingo* in *Hiſpaniola*, and an hundred from *Santa Cruz*, one of the *Careeby Iſlands*, and four Leagues from the Province of *Aria*, which is part of the Continent; it is much leſs than *Margarita*, without Cattel

Cattel or any other thing which may serve for the sustenance of man; particularly it wanteth water, but the inhabitants are furnished from the Continent, from a River called *Comana*, seven Leagues from *New Cadis*. This Island *Cubagua* was discovered by that famous Genouese *Christopher Columbus*, who having perceived a small Boat with some Fishers in it, and a Woman who had three rows of fair *Pearl* about her Neck, said to his Companions, That he thanked God he had now discovered the most rich

Countrey in the World. He broke an Earthen Plate of divers Colours, and for a piece or two of it this Woman gave him very willingly a row of these *Pearls*, and for another Plate he received many others, and learned of the *Indians* the place and manner of their Fishing for Pearls.

3 The third is at *Comana*, near the Continent.

The fourth is called *Comanagato*, twelve Leagues from the former.

5 The fifth and last is at the Ile of St. *Marina*, three score Leagues from the River *La Hacha*.

All

All the *Pearls* of these five Fishings are of a white water, weake, dry, faint, milky, or leady; not but that they find some fair ones, but they have not so live a water as those of the *East*; in recompence they are great ones, in weight from eighteen to forty two Carrats, and are almost all of the shape of a Pear.

These Five Fishings of which I have spoken, are all in the *North Sea*, but they find also great quantities in the *South Sea* near to *Panama*, they are long rather than round, but not so fair as the

other, and ordinarily are somewhat black; for the *Indians* opened the Oyster by Fire; till *Vasques Nugnez* taught the Cacique to open them without it; and since they find the *Pearls* whiter. Experience teacheth us that Oysters change their places as well as other Fish, and that they pass sometimes to one side of the Island and sometimes to the other.

It is a considerable curiosity to know how they fish for *Pearls*, seven, eight, or nine men at most go in one Bark, two of which descend to the

bottom of the Sea, six, nine, or twelve fathoms deep. About the Isles of *Margarita* and *Cubagua*, the water is very cold, but the greatest difficulty in fishing, is holding the breath under water, sometimes a quarter of an hour or longer; and that these poor Slaves may the better endure it, they feed them with dry meats and in a little quantity, avarice putting them upon these abstinences; but besides this, they use other expedients, they put upon their Nose little Pincers made of Buffalo's Horns which stoppeth their Nostrils:

they

they ſtuffe their Ears with Cotton Wool. Others hold Oil in their Mouths, eſpecially thoſe who cannot hold their breath long. Others hold their Mouth under their Arm-pits, and after that manner breath two or three times under water. There is a Sack of Stones or Sand tied to each of their Feet, to make them ſink ſtrait to the bottom, and another Bag tied about their Waſte, to put their Oyſters in; there is a Cord faſtened under their Arm-pits, held by them who remain in the Boat, and they under water hold another

other Cord in their hands, which they draw, to give notice to those in the Boat, that they can now hold their breath no longer, and that they must draw them up quickly.

When they have found a thousand or two of these Oysters, they sell them at adventure, without knowing what is within them, the Meat of the Oyster is without relish, and of very ill digestion; and is so far from being so good to eat as the meat of our Oysters of *Spain*, or those of *England*, that the very Fishermen disdain them, and seldom eat

eat any of them. *Acosta* in the Fourth Book of his History, glorieth that he had eat of these Oysters; and found *Pearls* in the middle of them. When the night cometh, the Fishermen retire to the Island, and carry the Oysters home to him who employeth them. Upon the opening they find in some none, in others from one to six *Pearls* more or less, and in some great number of grains, which we call Seed-pearl. These Oyster-shels are within of a lively colour towards an Azure, they make Spoons of them and other Toys,

Toys, ſuch as we call *Mother of Pearl.*

The *Pearls* are of very different forms, bigneſs, figure, colour, and poliſh, and differ alſo much in their price.

It was an error of the Ancients, as of *Iſidorus* and *Albertus Magnus*, to believe that the *Pearl* was bred by the dew of heaven, ſeeing that they are fiſhed out of the Sea ſo deep, as twelve fathoms; as alſo to think that there is but one found in an Oyſter, ſeeing that in ſome there are five or ſix, in which *Pliny* alſo diſagreeth with them, while he relateth

relateth what *Ælius Stilo* writeth; how that in the war of *Jugurtha* they gave the Name of *Uniones* to all great *Pearls*; and that he had seen four or five in one Oyster. It is true, that seldom two of the same form, greatness, and colour, are found in the same Oyster; and for this reason, as the same *Pliny* writeth, the Romans called them *Uniones*. When it happeneth that two are found which resemble one another perfectly, it encreaseth their price very much; and it may be those two famous ones of the Queen *Cleopatra* were

of this sort; each of which were valued at an hundred thousand Ducats: with one of these that prodigal Princesse won the wager she laid with *Mark Anthony*, that she would spend above an hundred thousand Ducats at one Supper; she dissolved it in Vinegar and drank it off at the latter end of Supper; the other was cut into two pieces and carried to *Rome* to the *Pantheon*, to adorn the Statua of *Venus*.

The *Pearls* of those Oysters which stick to the Rocks, are greater than those which are in the Sand or Mudde; and those

thoſe which are found in the Mudde incline ſomewhat to a dark colour; for the reſt, as the *Pearl* ſeemeth to depend on the air as well as the water, if in that time when the Oyſter breedeth the *Pearl*, the air be cloudy, it inclineth to be black; if the sky be clear, it is the whiter. The *Pearls* grow by little and little in an Oyſter, as the Eggs in a Pullet, ſo that the greateſt come forward towards the orifice or opening, while the ſmall ones remain at the bottom, until they are brought to perfection. And laſtly, the *Pearls*

grow

grow old and wrinkled, and by consequence become less beautiful, by losing of their lustre.

Scotland also produceth some *Pearls*, but such as are not of the value and beauty of the *Oriental Pearls*.

One curious and intelligent in these matters, furnished me with the following Rule for the price of *Pearls* according to their weight.

A Pearl weighing

1 *Grain*, *is worth* 1 *Crown*.
2 . . 4
3 9

A Pearl weighing

1 *Carrat, is worth*		16 *Crowns.*
1	1/4	25
1	1/2	36
1	3/4	49
2 *Carats,*		64
2	1/4	81
2	1/2	100
2	3/4	121
3 *Carats,*		144
3	1/4	169
3	1/2	196
3	3/4	225
4 *Carats,*		256
4	1/4	289
4	1/2	324
4	3/4	361

A Pearl weighing

5 *Carrats,*	400
5 ¼	441
5 ½	484
5 ¾	529
6 *Carrats,*	576
6 ¼	625
6 ½	675
6 ¾	729
7 *Carrats,*	784
7 ¼	841
7 ½	900
7 ¾	960
8 *Carrats,*	1024

CHAP. IV.

Of CORALL.

ALthough that *Corall* and *Yellow Amber* are not ranked amongſt *Jewels*, yet they very well deſerve a place in this Hiſtory, becauſe both of them have ſomething admirable in them, and ſerve for Ornament, nay ſome Nations have the ſame eſteem for theſe as we have for *Pearls* and *Diamonds*. There will then be three things to conſider in this Chapter, the Places where

where they fish for the *Coral*, the manner how they fish, and the Countreys where it is sold at the best rates.

First, There are three Fishings for *Coral* upon the Coasts of *Corsica* and *Sardinia*, one called *Argueil*, which is the best and faireſt; the ſecond called *Baza*, the third is near to the Iſland of *St. Peter*. That which groweth upon the Coaſt of *Corſica* is of the faireſt colour and longeſt. Upon the Coaſt of *Africa* there are two other Fiſhings, that near to the Baſtion of *France* and that of *Tabarca*. The *Coral* of this is

big enough and long, but of a pale colour. There is another Fishing upon the Coast of *Sicily*, near to *Drepanum*, the *Coral* of which is small, but of a very good colour. Another on the Coast of *Catania*, by Cape *Quiers*, where the *Coral* is thick and of an excellent colour, but the Branches are very short. There is also another Fishing in the Isle of *Majorca*, where the *Coral* is of the same nature with that of *Corsica*, so that the *Coral*, if not onely, is chiefly found in the *Mediterranean Sea*.

Let

Let us now come to the manner of Fishing for it: The *Coral* groweth under hollow Rocks, at the foot of which the Sea is deep, so that the Fishers proceed thus: They fasten cross-wise two great Pieces of Timber, and place a great Piece of Lead in the middle, to make them sink; afterwards they tie Hemp about the Timber, and wreath it about negligently to the thickness of an Inch; they tie to the Wood two Ropes, one hangeth at the Prow and the other at the Poop of the Vessel; and so as they run along

by the Rocks, they let go the Wood, and the Hemp windeth it ſelf about the *Coral*. There is need many times of fifteen or twenty Boats to draw up the Pieces of Timber, but by plucking up the *Coral* thus by force, there falleth as much into the Sea as can be drawn out; and the bottom being ordinarily of Ouſe or Mudde, the *Coral* is corroded continually, as if it were worm-eaten; ſo that the ſooner it is drawn up, the leſs waſte is made of it: ſome think *Coral* to be ſoft under water, though it be really hard;

hard; yet true it is that at certain moneths of the year there is drawn from the end of the branch by preſſing it, a kind of Milk, like that out of a Womans Breaſt, which may very well be the ſeed of the Coral, the which falling upon ſomething or other in the Sea, accidentally produceth another branch of *Coral*, as it hath been really found upon a Skull and upon the Blade of a Sword.

The Fiſhing of *Coral* is performed from the beginning of *April* to the end of *July*, and commonly two hundred Barks and

and upwards are employed to that effect, ſeven men and a boy in each. They are built all along the Coaſt of *Genoa*, are very light, and bear ſo great ſail, that no Men of War can bear up with them; and it is by this means they eſcape the Corſairs. The Fiſhing is performed forty miles along the Shore, over againſt certain Capes that jet out; where they preſume there is Rocks under water. There was lately to be ſeen at *Marſeilles*, in a Shop where they deal in *Coral*, a piece of the bigneſs of ones Fiſt, which they

they cut in two, because it was somewhat worm-eaten, and there was found within it a Worm which stirred, and lived some moneths, being put again into its hole. 'Tis observable that round about some branches of *Coral* there is bred as it were a Sponge resembling Cells, wherein there lie small Worms like Bees, so much Nature pleases her self in the diversity of her productions.

We must finish this Chapter by a pretty curious Observation: Those of *Japan* contrary to all the rest of the World, make

make no account of Pearls or Precious Stones, and all their Jewels consist in a grain of *Coral*. Now as they carry by their sides a great Bag, such as our Mechanicks wear, so is he the best man, that hath the biggest grain of *Coral* to slip in his Purse String of Silk; and to him who can bring them one of the bigness of an Egge, they will not onely give a thousand Crowns, but fifteen or twenty thousand, or whatsoever he shall demand. Moreover, throughout all *Asia*, and especially towards the North in the *Great Mogol's*

Mogol's Dominions, and beyond the Mountains of *Tartaria*, part of which hath lately conquered *China*; the bravery of the Common sort of People is of *Coral*, and they wear it as well about their Necks as upon their Arms and and Leggs; and so much for *Coral*.

CHAP. V.

Of Yellow Amber.

Yellow and *White Amber* are found no where in abundance, but only upon the

the Banks of *Prussia*, the Sea throwing it up time after time at certain Winds. The Elector of *Brandenbourgh* lets out all these Coasts, and the Farmers do there maintain Guards, who lie all along the Coast, to the end none may take it away, which is very Criminal; the Sea casts up the *Amber* sometimes on one side sometimes on the other.

As I have made an Observation of *Coral*, in respect of *Japan*, so I must make another of *Amber* in respect of *China*. When any great Lord makes a considerable Feast,

to

to ſhew his magnificence and ſplendour, at the cloſe of the Feaſt they bring into the Hall three or four Perfuming Pots, upon which they throw a large quantity of *Amber*, ſometimes to the value of a thouſand Crowns and upwards; ſeeing the more there is burnt of it, ſo much the greater ſplendor it adds to him who treats. Beſides they make uſe of it after this manner, becauſe *Amber* thrown into the Fire, giveth a certain Smell which is not unpleaſant, and becauſe the Flame excels all other Flames. Hence it is that *Amber*

is

is one of the best Merchandices that one can bring into *China*, and whereof the *Holland* Company does reserve to themselves the particular Commerce, the *Chineses* coming to buy of them in *Batavia*.

I leave to Naturalists to treat of the Proprieties of *Yellow Amber*, which is not the Subject of our Discourse.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of Metals, Amber-gris, Bezoar, Indico, and other rich Productions of the East and West.

ALthough nothing that appears in this Title may come into the List of Jewels, any more than *Yellow Amber* or *Coral*; yet I may touch upon them as things the most precious which we receive from the *East* and *West*.

Metals are like Plants hidden in the Bowels of the Earth,

and there is some resemblance between them in the manner of their production. Minerals have branches and a trunck from whence they grow, and great and small Veins, which are bound together, and do seem to imitate Vegetables. These Minerals are produced by the vertue and force of the Sun and the other Planets, and in a long space of time are increased and multiplied in these obscure Caverns; but there is this difference in the Earth which brings forth Plants, and that which produceth Minerals; that this is fat

and fertile, for the nourishment of that which it sendeth forth; but on the contrary the other is rude and barren, like the matter which it generates within. Metals were created for the use of Physick, for Agriculture, and for the Defence and Ornament of Man, not to speak of the Species of Gold and Silver, so necessary to the entertaining of Society and Commerce: Upon which one understanding enough said, *That as a Father giveth a great Portion to his Daughter, by that means to provide her a more advantageous Match, so God hath*

given to the Earth great riches in Mines, to the end that Men might enquire into her with the greater care. Iron, Lead, Copper, and Tinne, are found in ſo many places of the Earth, that the *Americans*, who have divers Mines of them, neglect to dig them; I will not give theſe therefore any place in this diſcourſe, and will content my ſelf to ſay onely this, that there is great quantity of *Copper* in *Sweden*, that the beſt *Tinne* is brought out of *Cornwal* in the Weſt of *England*; and that the *Peruvians* make uſe of no other *Lead*, *Iron*, or *Copper*,

per, but what is brought them out of *Europe*, although they have Mines of their own. I will ſpeak therefore onely of *Gold* and *Silver* which are the moſt pretious of all Metals, and of *Quickſilver*, which ſerveth to refine them both. *Gold* is the richeſt of all Metals, the heavieſt and moſt malleable, that is to ſay, that ſuffers it ſelf to be extended the moſt under the Hammer; and from all time Men have ſought and loved the enjoyment of it. It is found in *Aſia* in the Sand of divers Rivers, and for this *Ganges* and *Pactolus* have been

rendred famous in Hiſtory; and not to ſpeak of *Tagus* and other Rivers of *Europe*, which carry *Gold*; the *Arva*, which falleth from the Mountains of *Savoy*, and joyneth with the *Rhone* near *Geneva*, furniſheth *Gold* enough to recompence the pains of thoſe who ſearch for it; but the abundance of *Gold* is found in Mines, and theſe Mines are not every-where; we have diſcovered but few in *Europe*; *Scotland* hath ſome, and *Sileſia* and *Hungaria*, but they do not very much enrich their Maſters: let us conſider therefore the Mines

of

of *Æthiopia* and *India*, and particularly of the Isle of *Sumatra*, which the Ancients called the *Chersonesus* of *Gold*. We may mention also the famous Mines of *Potosi*, which celebrate *Peru* above all the Regions of the Earth, and where so many Slaves are employed; for the Mines of Silver there are divers of them in *Europe*, and particularly in *Saxony*; there are of them also in *Asia*, but the Mines which are the most famous of all are in a Mountain of *Peru*, unknown to the *Inca*'s before the arrival of the Spaniards. This

Mine is so rich, that the Mine which *Hannibal* found in the *Pyrenæan Hills*, out of which, as *Pliny* reports, every day was drawn three hundred pounds of Silver, cannot be compared to it; the description of this at large is to be seen in *Josephus Acosta* his *Natural History* of the *Indies*; and for the manner of refining Metals, so many have written, that I may be excused from describing it: there resteth therefore no more but *Quicksilver*, which is found in a certain Vermillion Stone, great quantity of it cometh from the Mountain of *Guangavilca*,

gavilca, near to the City of *Guamagua* in *Peru*; out of which they draw every year eight thouſand Quintals of *Quickſilver*; there are alſo divers Mines of *Gold* and *Silver* in *Spain*, but the Inhabitants neglect to work them, contenting themſelves with thoſe which they have in the *Indies*.

Amber-gris is a Medicinal Liquor, full as odoriferous as the true Balme, but thicker naturally, and is brought into a Paſte of a hot and good Perfume, which may be applied to wounds; it cometh not onely out of the *East-Indies* but

but *New Spain* doth also produce it, and the Sea casteth it up upon the Coast of *England* and *Ireland*.

Bezoar that famous Stone so well known in Physick, is found five dayes journey from *Golconda*, towards the East of *Summer* in the Province of *Renquery*, and is ingendred in the Paunch of Goats, some of which have twelve Stones in them. The Inhabitants of the Countrey easily know how many Stones the Goat hath in his body by this means, they stroak the belly of the Goat with their hands and rub it, till

the

the *Bezoars* come all to the bottom of the Paunch, and then they may be felt and counted like little Stones in a Bag. They sell them by weight, the bigger the Stone the dearer. In the year 1660 there were sold of them to the value of an hundred thousand Francks, and the greatest part fell to the English; there come also *Bezoar Stones* from the Kingdom of *Macassar* in the Isle of *Celebes*, at five degrees of Southern Latitude, near the *Molucka's*, but they are found in the bodies of Apes, and are not so large as those of *Golconda*.

Indico

Indico, which is made use of for the most rich Colours, cometh from a Tree which is planted every year after the rains are passed, and when it is grown to the height of between two and three foot, they cut it at half a foot from the ground, and then take that which is cut and put it into great Pits with Lime, which becometh so hard, that the Pits seem to be but one piece of Marble. These Pits are ordinarily about fourscore Paces about, they fill them half or a little more with water, and then continue to fill them with the

the green of this Tree, and every day ſtir the whole till it ſettleth and becometh like to mudde or clay, or clay mixed with water; afterwards they let the whole ſtand for ſome dayes, and then let out the water of the Pits. When all the water is out, they take the mudde or ſettlement in their hands, and having ſteeped it in Oil, they form great or ſmall pieces, according to their fancy, and drie them in the Sun. To deceive the Merchant, they ſet them ſometimes to dry upon the ſand, that ſo the ſand ſticking to them, they may weigh the heavier; but they pay well for it, when this deceit cometh to the knowledge of the Governour. This Tree is cut three times, but the oftner it is cut the *Indico* becometh of leſs value, and there is more than twenty in the hundred difference in the price, the latter giving

not

not so much colour as the first. The best *Indico* cometh from *Biana*, from *Iudona*, and from *Corsa*, three Villages at a day or a day and halfs journey from *Agra*, and it is that which is made up into Balls. Eight dayes journey from *Surat* and two leagues from *Amadabat*, there is a Village called *Sarquese*, from whence the flat *Indico* cometh; there groweth also *Indico* of the same nature with the last, and near the same price, in the Kingdom of *Golconda*: it is also brought out of the *West*, from the Isles of *Maldives*, where they make it very much after the same manner as in the *East*.

Salpeter cometh in great quantity from *Agra* and *Patena*, from whence it is brought twenty dayes journey down the *Ganges*, to a place where the English and Holland Merchants come to lade.

Great quantity of *Silk* cometh from *Bengala* and thereabouts, which is the best Countrey of *India*, there cometh also great abundance from the Province of *Gillon* or ancient *Hircania* in *Persia*, and from *Sicily*.

Gumme Lacca is brought from the Kingdom of *Bengala*, but the best cometh out of *Pegu*. A sort of Ants carry this Gumme and fasten it about wild Shrubs, from whence is made great quantity of Wax.

Sal Armoniac cometh from *Amadabat*, one of the greatest places of Traffick in the *Indies*, for Stuffs of *Gold* and *Silk*, as also Tapistry and other Works as beautiful as in *Persia*, but their Colours hold not so long. There cometh also from thence great quantity of Linnen, of Painted Cottons, which are carried into *Persia*, *Arabia*, to the *Abissines*, to the *Red Sea*, to the Isles

of

Madagascar, *Sumatra*, *Java*, ... to the *Molucka's*, and into ... , and it would be the greatest ... Town of all the *Indies*, if ... did not equal it.

As for Spices, ... *Pepper*, *Cloves*, ... and *Ginger*, the greatest ... of them is brought from ... *Islands*, about the *Æ*- ... *Ginger* cometh from the Island *Ceylon*, not to speak of the Isles *Antilles*, which do also furnish us ... *Ginger*.

... is all I have at present collected of what is remarkable in the ... and faithful Relations of our ... upon the Subject of Jew- ... and other rich Productions of ... I have given a short Account, ... for a greater Work.

FINIS.